

# Environmental and Climate Considerations for Community Groups

Becky Hothersall and Ailie Law/Antonia Baird










Argyll and Bute Council Community Development team



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# Workshop outline

-  Welcome and icebreaker
-  Why write an **environmental policy?**
-  Choosing your priorities. *ACTIVITY*
-  Examples and templates
-  Other resources
-  **Adapting** to climate change
-  Identifying an action *ACTIVITY*
-  Keeping up the momentum. *ACTIVITY*
-  More resources

Summary, reflection  
and evaluation

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# Outcomes



Understand why an environmental policy is a useful way to frame your values, ambitions and priorities



Understand potential advantages to your organisation



Identify priorities and tensions



Plus ... ideas for ways to structure your policy

...further sources of information

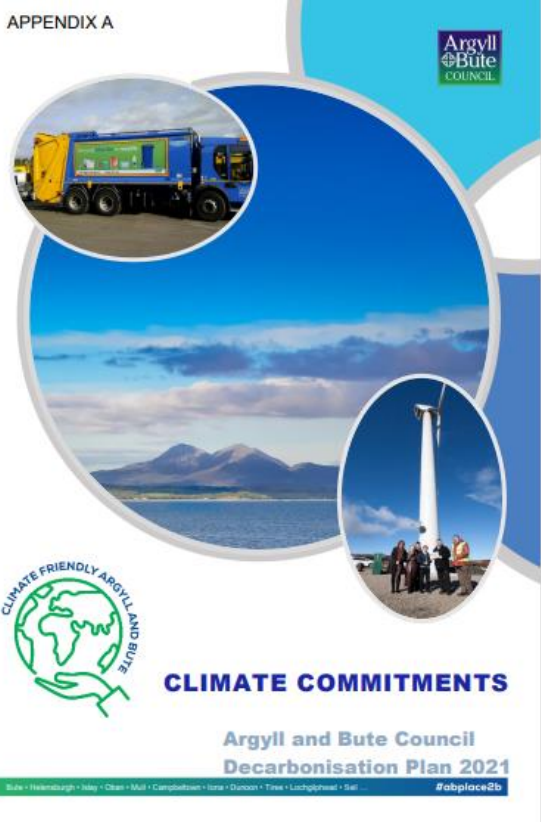
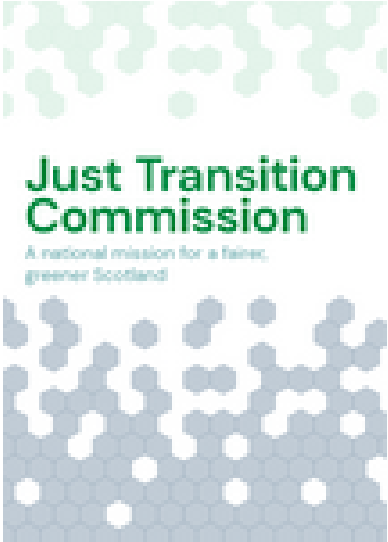
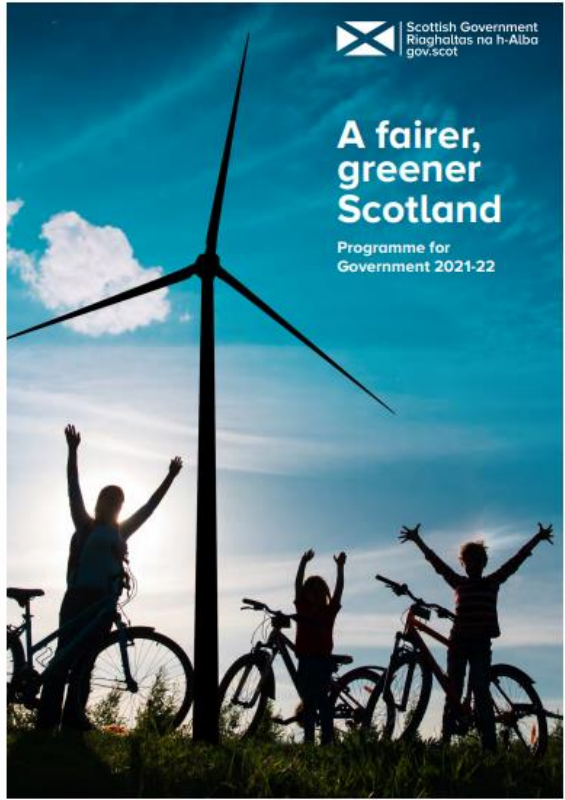
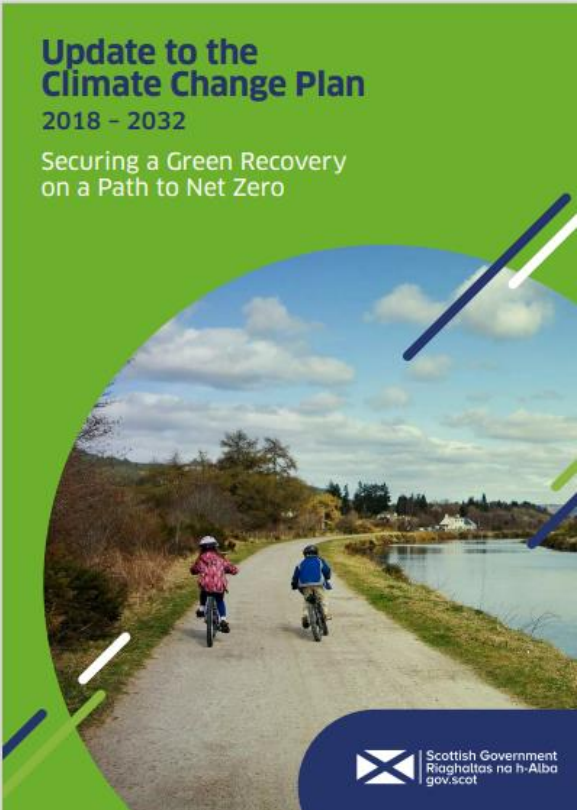


Reflect on climate adaptation actions – individual, organisation, community



Identify an action you would like to take next

# The big picture – national and regional commitments



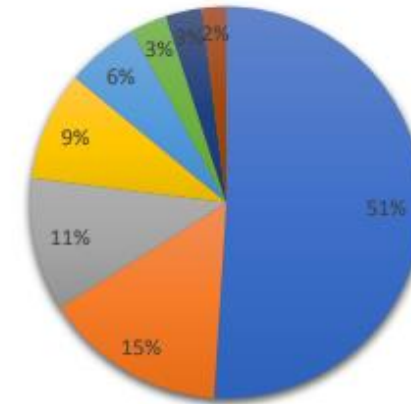
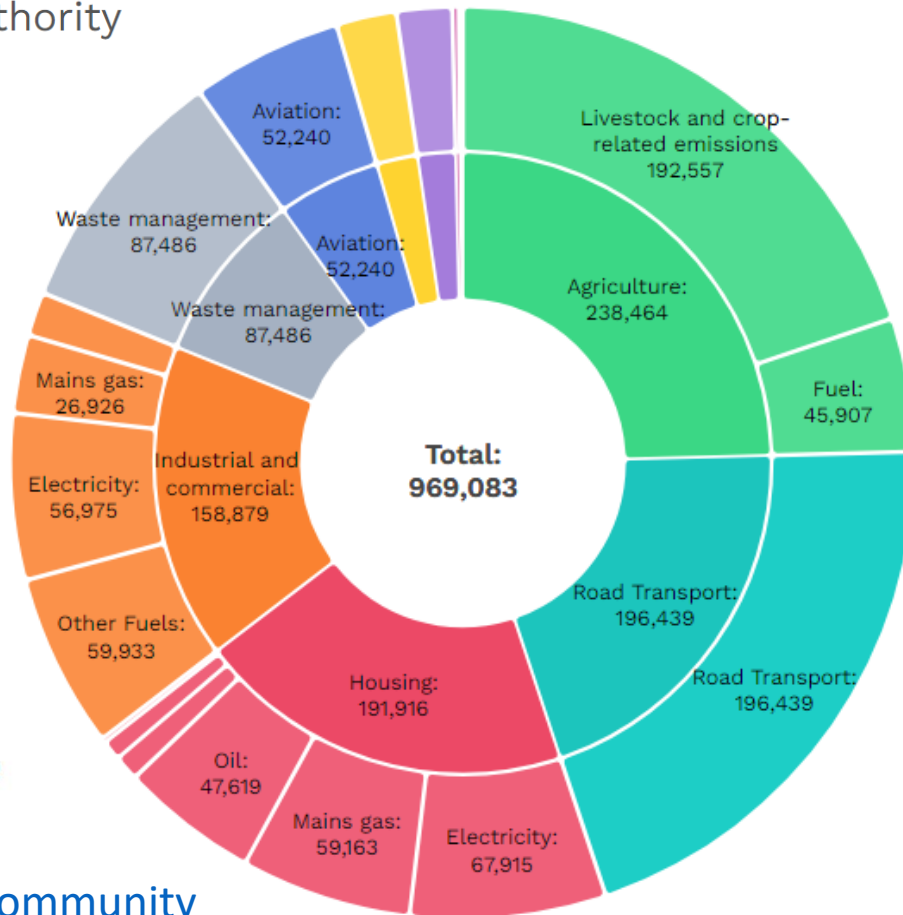
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# Emission sources in Argyll and Bute

Carbon Footprint Report:  
Argyll and Bute  
Scottish local authority

Argyll and Bute Council Emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e) - 2018/2019



- Refuse Municipal to Landfill - 51%
- Natural Gas - 15%
- Grid Electricity - 11%
- Fleet – all Diesel Vehicles - 9%
- Gas Oil & LPG - 6%
- Business Miles (unspecified fuel) - 3%
- Streetlighting - 3%
- All other activities - 2%

Source: [Argyll and Bute Council Decarbonisation Plan 2021](#)



Source: [Impact Community Carbon Calculator](#)

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# Local action and the impact of lifestyle

## Community Planning Partnership - Climate Change



[Climate Change Action Signposting Page](#)

### Positive Action

We have identified the following links to websites highlighting ways for you to get involved. They provide general information about climate change activity with opportunities to get involved.



[Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park](#)



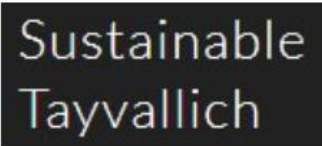
[Towards Zero Carbon Bute](#)



[Argyll and the Isles Coast & Countryside Trust \(act\)](#)



[Mess Mull & Iona](#)



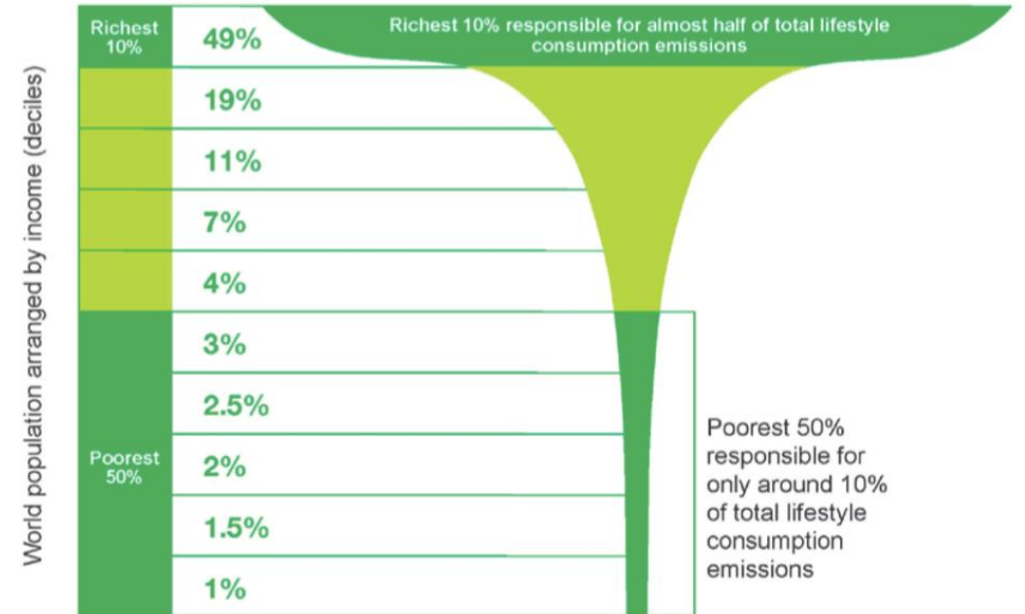
[Sustainable Tayvallich](#)



[InspirAlba](#)

Source: [CPP Climate Change signposting page](#)

## Percentage of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by world population



Source: Oxfam

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## Mitigation

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to slow or stop global climate change, *i.e. using the car less, flying less and buying local food.*



[Generally, an environmental policy focuses on this]

## Adaptation

Adjusting to the impacts of climate change to reduce the negative impacts and exploit any opportunities, *i.e. building sea walls or removing carpets from accommodation that is at risk from flooding.*

From Adaptation  
Scotland's  
[Introduction to  
Climate Change  
Adaptation](#)



[Adaptation is also important and can support and complement mitigation actions]



Save money

Communicate commitment set expectations or standards

Fly the flag or increase visibility of what you already do

Build consensus within your organisation

Legal obligations

Attract sponsorship or partners

Increasingly relevant if bidding for public contracts

Becoming mainstream within grant funding

# Why develop an environmental policy?



## [UN Sustainable Development Goal 13](#)

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# What matters to you most? Ideas for categories



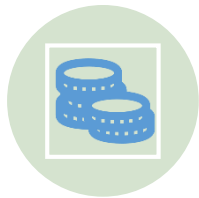
Procurement



Energy use



Transport



Finance



Environmental  
Justice



Food



Conserve/enhance  
environment



Events



Waste

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Useful questions...

How much control  
do we have?

What are we  
already doing?

What can we  
measure?

What do we want to  
achieve?

Where can we have  
the biggest influence?

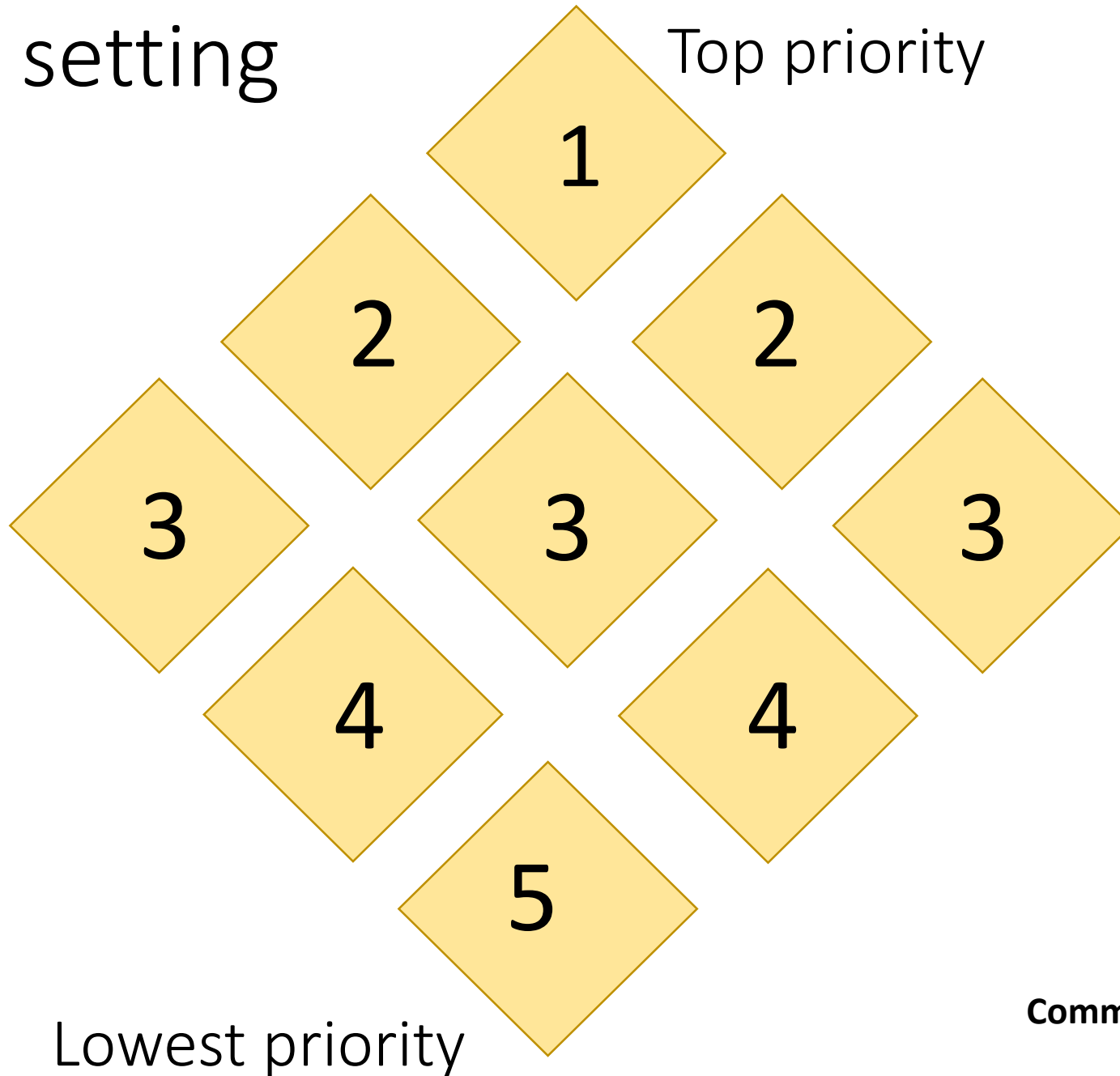
*What's in it for us?!*

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# Priority setting activity

Top priority



Lowest priority

Waste
Conserve/ Enhance environment
Finance
Events

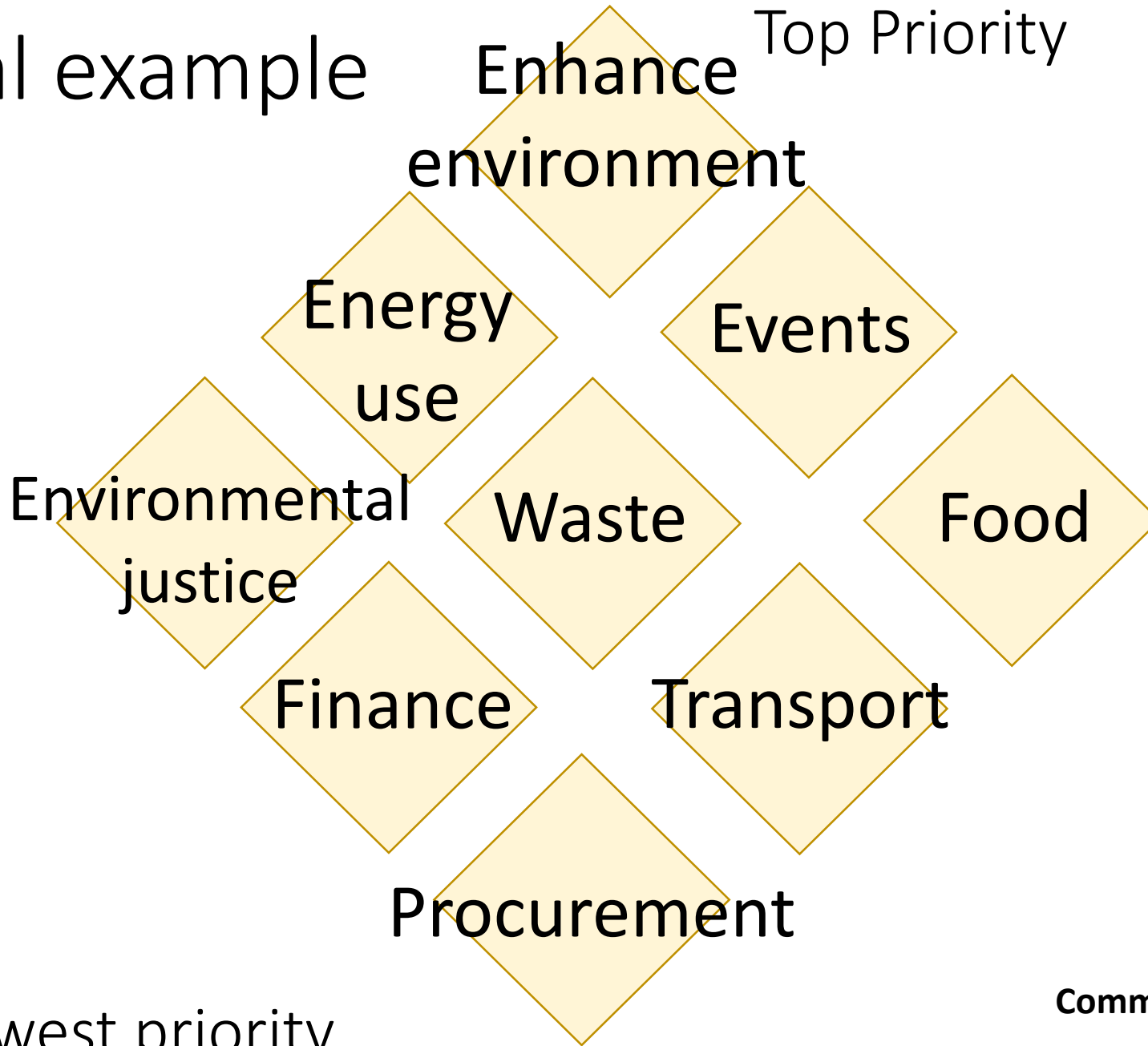
Energy use
Procurement
Transport
Environmental justice
Food

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Fictional example

Top Priority



**Dalriada  
Youth  
Club**

Lowest priority

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Ranking  
priorities

Control



Transport

Energy  
use

Enhance  
environment

Importance



Waste

Procurement

Finance

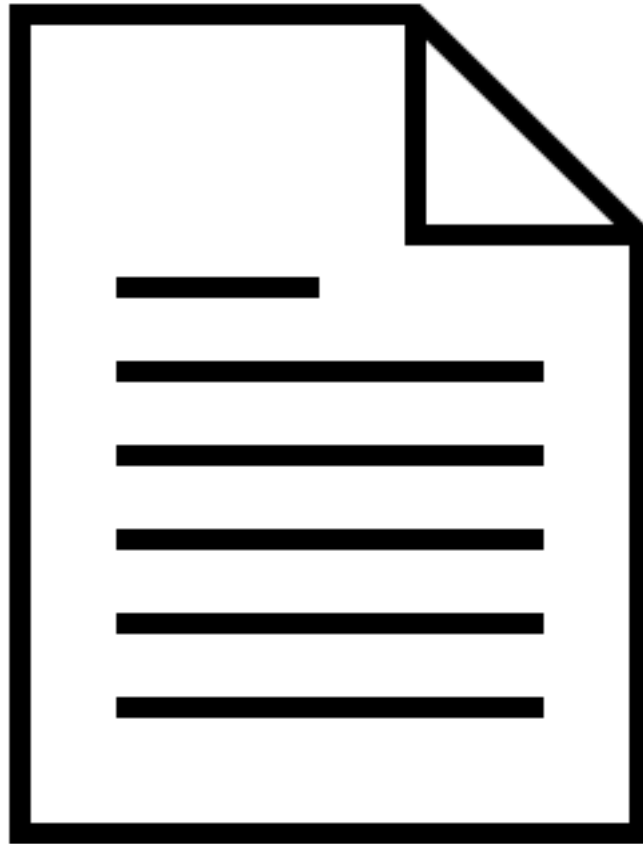
- An iterative process
- Factoring in how much control you have can help decide rankings
- Can use as an exercise to build consensus on priorities



# What makes a good policy?

- Plain language; active case – clear responsibilities
- Baseline and targets or lighter touch?
- Will you also need procedures or action/implementation plans?
- What/how/who/when
- Who needs to be consulted or contribute?
- Who takes responsibility for it?
- Suggest limiting to 5-6 areas of focus
- *Or* specialized/detailed, e.g. sustainable procurement policy

# A simple environmental policy template



See Handouts

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# Examples – what approach would work for you?

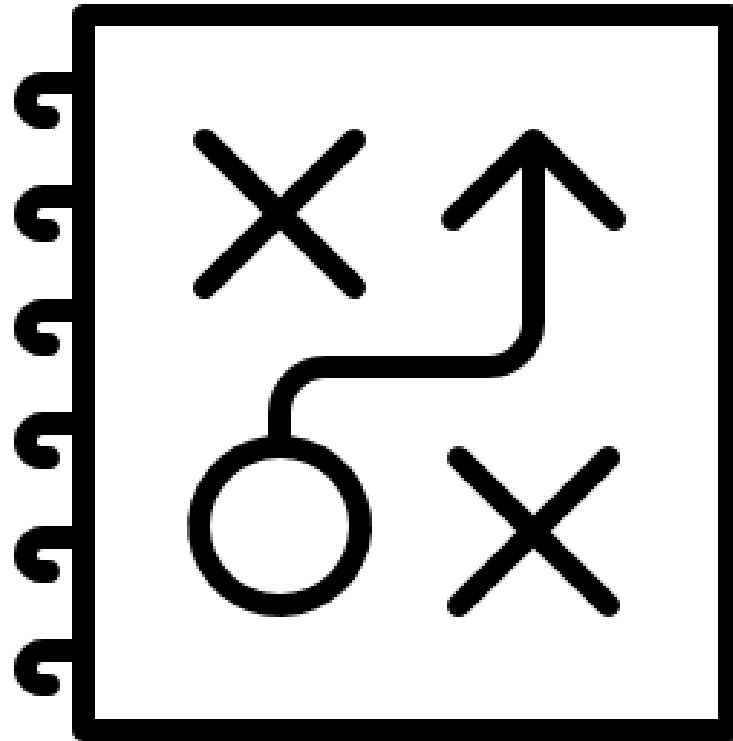
- DWS Associates (see handouts) – clear, simple one-page policy
- [Mull and Iona Community Trust](#) – more tailored
- [Thurso Community Development Trust](#) – comprehensive (“umbrella” body)
- [Wreckspeditions](#) – policy as a web page; personal, visual.
- [Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations](#) – strategic; statement of intent; commits to measuring change (large organisation)



# Further examples

- [Maindee](#) (environmental charity) – includes sections on implementation and includes training and communication in focus areas
- [Clydebank Housing Association](#) – cites relevant objectives of organisational mission; core values; regulatory standards; focus areas.
- [MESS Eco Charter](#) – sub-project of MICT offering simple framework to local businesses and organisations. General, broad activities relevant to most.
- [RYA – The Green Blue guides](#) – really useful guides and templates (focussed on boating organisations but lots of adaptable information)

# A simple action plan template

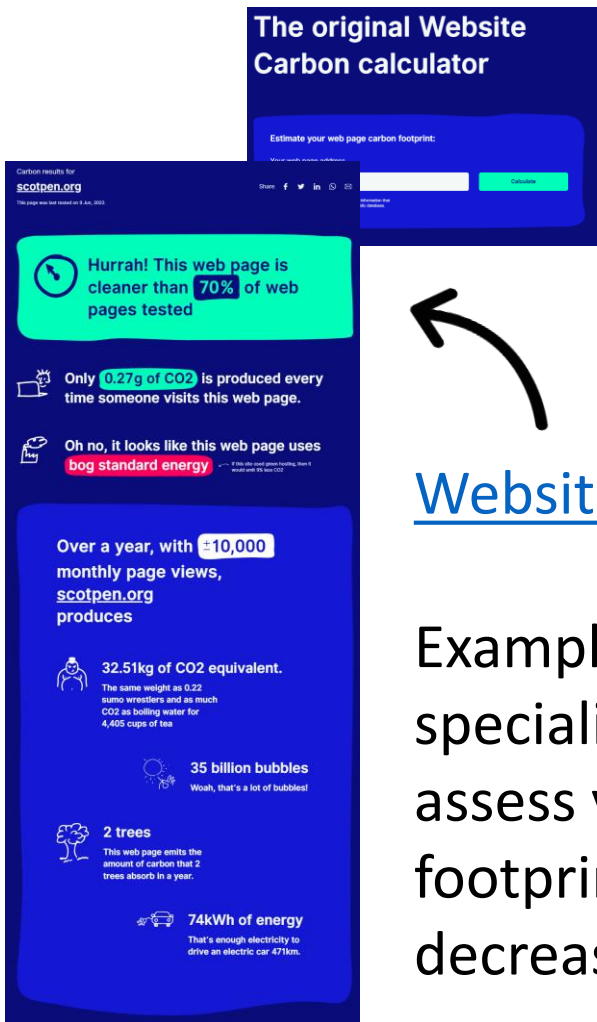
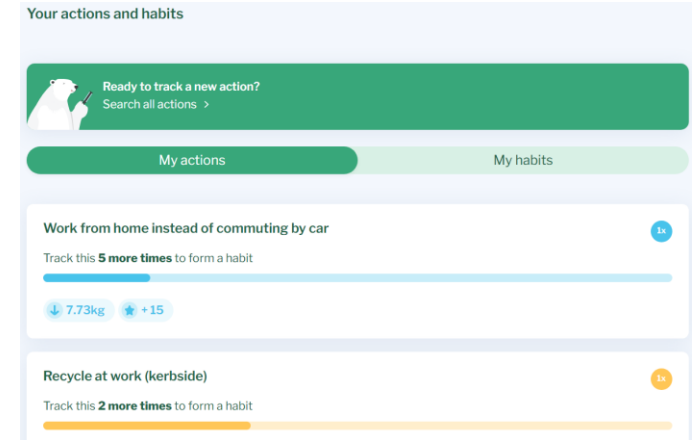


See Handouts

# Resources – Carbon calculators

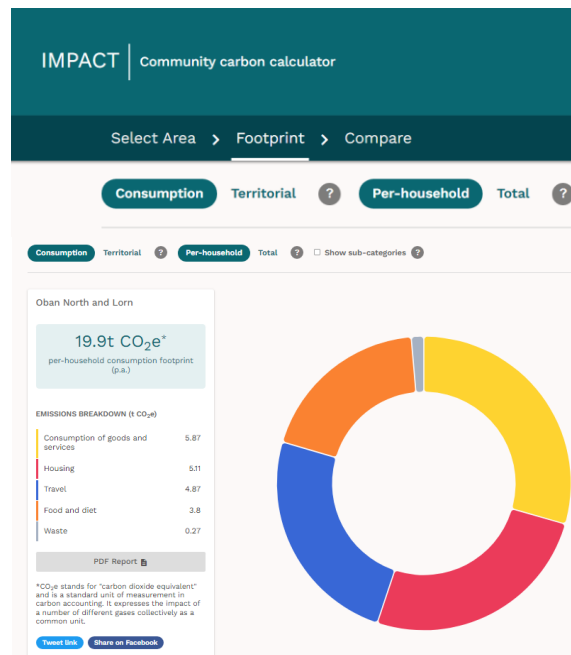
## Pawprint

Quickly calculate home, work, travel, diet footprints  
Tools for assessing impact of behaviour changes



## WebsiteCarbon

Example of more specialist calculator – assess your website’s footprint and how to decrease it



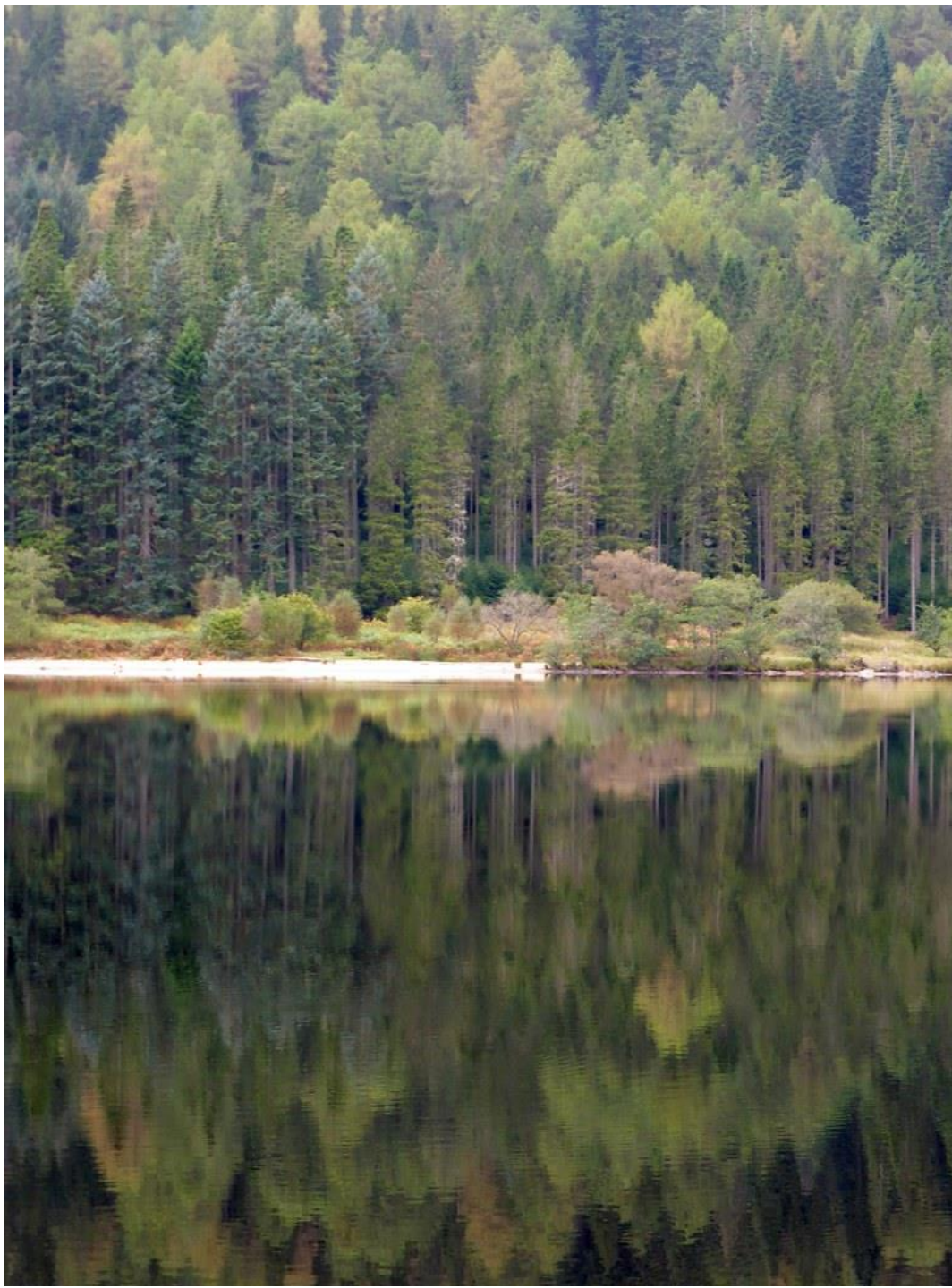
## Impact Community Carbon Calculator

Visualise your community’s carbon footprint, identify emission sources, compare areas.

Compare territorial and consumption-based models

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# Summary

- Be clear what the policy aims to do
- Identify areas where you can make biggest gains
- Look for additional benefits (e.g. cost savings, health)
- Acknowledge what is within your power – ok to prioritise on easy wins and to formalise what you're already doing.
- Follow up with an action plan
- Review regularly

# Reflection

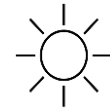
- Has the discussion changed your priority ranking?
- What other info do you need to write your policy?

# Adapting to climate change - resilience

## The adaptation process



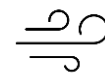
Adaptation  
Scotland  
supporting climate change resilience



Aims: identify some current and predicted changes for our area.



Flooding example – what actions could you could gain most from?



Signposting to resources for further exploration

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The key long-term climate change trends for Scotland are:

- Weather will remain variable, it may become more variable
- Typical summer is hotter and drier
- Typical winter / autumn is milder and wetter
- Sea level rise

We can also expect to see:

- Increase in summer heat waves, extreme temperatures and drought
- Increased frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation events
- Reduced occurrence of frost and snowfall

From Adaptation  
Scotland's  
[Introduction to  
Climate Change  
Adaptation](#)

## Rising seas will threaten coastal communities and infrastructure

Sea level rise is already having a widespread impact on parts of Scotland's coast. With this set to accelerate over the coming decades, we can expect to see more coastal flooding, erosion and coastline retreat – with consequences for our coastal communities and supporting infrastructure.



From Adaptation  
Scotland's  
[Introduction to  
Climate Change  
Adaptation](#)

# Building performance will be challenged

Building performance will be challenged by a changing climate, needing to cope with more extreme summer temperatures, intense rainfall events and potential changes in wind and storm patterns. This will require appropriate design and building standards, but also adaptation of existing building stock.





# Discussion

- Have you already been dealing with climate-related changes?
- What are you concerned about in the future?
- Is there a stand-out issue for your organisation?
  - does it affect your staff, volunteers, service users?
- How do we reduce impacts on the most vulnerable?

Flooding example  
- small scale adaptations

...organisations



...partnerships and  
the wider community

Actions

Information  
sources

Actions for  
individuals

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# Where to start...?



[SEPA Flood maps](#)

[Household emergency plan templates](#)

Composting and mulching

Flexible working arrangements?

Maintenance/upgrading: washable floor and wall finishes



[Community emergency plans](#)

Mapping community assets

Check your insurance!

Source sandbags?

General emergency preparedness:

[SEPA video](#)

[Scottish Flood Forum](#)

[Argyll & Bute Council Flood Advice](#)

FM radio

[Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Community Asset Register](#)

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# Dunoon

## Activity: postcard from the future

Dear Future-me,  
How are you getting on with your idea to write a household emergency plan?  
Regards,  
Present-me



[www.futureme.org](http://www.futureme.org)

# Current resources and funding



[Introduction to climate change adaptation](#) (presentation)

[Community adaptation actions](#)

[Is your business climate ready?](#)



[Culture & Climate Resource hub](#)

Green events

[Making Waves: Guide to Plastic Free Festivals and Events](#)



[Argyll and Bute CPP Climate Change Action signposting page](#)

(includes funding search)



[Let's Do Net Zero Community Buildings Fund](#)



[Climate emergency training](#)

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# Training Evaluation Form

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/evaluation-training-form>

Thank you very much for your feedback

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# Links shared by session participants

- Ethical Consumer magazine <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/>
- Circular Arts Network (CAN), a circular economy tool created to support the arts <https://www.canarts.org.uk/>
- Circular Communities Scotland: Empowering Scottish Communities to Deliver a Circular Economy <https://www.circularcommunities.scot/>
- Built Environment – Smarter Transformation (formerly Construction Scotland Innovation Centre) <https://www.be-st.build/>. Contact Tom Warren, Impact Manager – Sustainability (supporting organisations in the Highlands & Islands region with construction/built environment support needs around zero carbon). [twarren@be-st.build](mailto:twarren@be-st.build)